



CANOPY

Newsletter of the New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust

PATRONS: Arthur & Pat Cowan

PO Box 80-007, Green Bay, Waitakere 0643
www.nznfrt.org.nz

A Message to our Supporters

We must begin with an apology: it is more than a year since the appearance of the previous issue of Canopy. This is not because the Native Forests Restoration Trust has been inactive, rather the reverse. The work of maintaining our 28 existing nature reserves while actively prospecting for additional properties has expanded. Fortunately the Trust has continued to receive donations and bequests for which we are ever grateful while the income from the sale of carbon credits provides an important income.

Part of the reason for delay in producing Canopy is attributable to the lengthy stages involved in finalising purchase of the major property west of Hamilton that has been projected for some time. Even now this process is incomplete, though we are confident this acquisition will be announced in the near future and be the focus of the next Canopy.

Another factor relates to management of the Trust, as it had become apparent that the scale and complexity of our work was exceeding our voluntary capacity and some changes needed to be made, the critical one being to employ a manager. Depending as we do on the backing of our supporters, we are only too happy to explain these changes in the article below, which is followed by an introduction to our new manager, Sandy Crichton

Very sadly, I must now record the recent sudden death of Owen Lewis, the Trust's founding Chair and a cherished personal friend of all the Trustees, present and past. Please read the tribute to Owen which appears in this issue of Canopy

Colleen Newton
CHAIRPERSON

The Trust in 2014

As followers of Canopy will appreciate, the success of the NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust over the past thirty years has been largely due to the dedicated efforts of a small group of volunteers backed by a large number of committed supporters. Management tasks were undertaken by volunteers and practically all of the trust's financial resources have been directed to the acquisition of tracts of land to be protected, including native bush and wetland at risk or farmland to be restored to forest. As the area to maintain grew we began to engage contractors and in 2002 we recognised the need to have someone dedicated to the management of these reserves and so engaged a field officer, initially David Wright followed by Sharen Graham, whose duties include the overseeing of contract work. Meanwhile the number of reserves to look after has continued to grow. In addition the issues being dealt with by the trustees have become more complex. At times matters needed urgent attention that the volunteers were finding increasingly difficult to provide. The trustees have always kept expenses very low and resisted the idea of paid staff, but we have come to realise that the organisation has reached a stage which is beyond the capacity of volunteers to manage effectively. Decision making was becoming difficult, tasks were ever expanding, and too many important things were at risk of "falling through the cracks."

Last year the trustees spent some time on planning and review, discussing how best to move forward, confirming the objectives of the trust and setting a strategic direction. We decided to increase the amount of effort being put into maintenance of existing reserves, while continuing to fulfill our mission of acquiring as much area of native ecosystems as possible to protect. Another result of these deliberations was a decision to employ a trust manager to handle this period of transition and to put in place processes to make the trust operations more efficient. Sandy Crichton (who is introduced in this copy of Canopy) has been appointed to this position. The trustees felt confident to take this radical step as some of the funds from the sale of carbon credits that accrue from the growth of our forests can be used to cover the cost of this overhead, while still allowing all donations to be spent on acquisition and maintenance. At the same time we have increased the hours of the field officer (now called reserves manager) and divided this task between two people, Sharen Graham who manages our reserves from Auckland south and Chris Wild who manages the trust's Northland reserves.

We are very excited by this new direction and are confident that the benefits of having Sandy full time to guide operations and promote the work of the trust will be very cost effective and will lead to more protected land and better results for the health of our reserves. There will be no actual office space for him as the internet enables us to put in place a 'virtual office.' This approach allows the trustees and staff to share information, while overheads will continue to be kept to a minimum. A copy of the trust's strategic plan is available on the website <http://www.nznfrt.org.nz/canopy-newsletters>

New-Look Canopy This will be the last issue of Canopy in its current format. The new-look Canopy will be available both as an electronic and a printed version. For those of you who have access to email you will receive links to future issues of Canopy directly to your inbox. We will continue to send a printed version to those of you without an email address. If you would like to opt in or out of receiving the printed version please let us know by sending a message to admin@nznfrt.org.nz, or by writing to us at: NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust, PO Box 80-007, Green Bay, Auckland 0643.

Facebook Our official new Facebook page is now up and running. We plan to use Facebook to provide more connectivity with our supporters, providing regular reserves updates, highlighting special events and providing a platform where we can share stories, videos and photographs from reserves. We will also have contributions from Trustees, Reserves Managers, Honorary Rangers and volunteers. To find us on Facebook please follow the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/NZNativeForestsRestorationTrust>

Owen William Gladstone Lewis

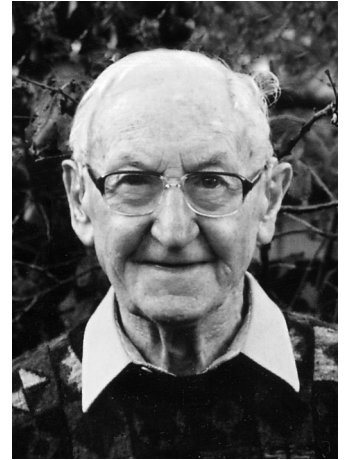
21 August 1921 – 5 March 2014

Eulogy delivered by Geoff Davidson on 11th March 2014

The New Zealand Native Forests Restoration Trust began on 17th July 1980. Owen Lewis was among the ten founding trustees. Of course it all started years earlier when protesters fought against the logging of native forests – Maruia, Whirinaki, Pureora and many others. Pureora is where many of us met and found a common philosophy of wanting to do more than protest. We wanted to be creative, constructive, to restore forest health. After a lifetime of educating New Zealand's youth Owen took on the task of chairing the NZNFRT. Did he realise it was to be a second career? A task that would occupy much of his time for the next 33 years. Owen kept a very steady hand on the wheel of the Trust, tempering our enthusiasms with common sense and when necessary, gentle encouragement.

It is instructive to look back on the early days. Through the newsletter Owen struck a note of confidence: "Support for the Trust in its first year has been overwhelming." Soon he was able to report: "The Trust has been steadily widening its operation" and he recounted "planting trips in South Pureora bordering the very impressive Totara stand of the Pikiariki Block", noting "100% survival of previous plantings" and added "It's a very satisfying experience to recreate proper habitat". He also told us that "Sir Edmund Hillary has kindly agreed to become our patron". Over the next few years Owen headlined a host of Trust activities: Banding of Rata Trees, Nursery Grown Plants spreading around the country, Submissions to Government, Saving forest on Maori land on the slopes of Rangitoto Mountain are just a few examples.

During 1985 the Trust took a new direction by becoming a partner in land purchase. The Ernest Morgan Reserve at Riverhead was created and QEII National Trust took ownership. Later that year another reserve was born. This time the Trust took full freehold ownership having raised \$44,500, plus \$14,500 loans with \$22,000 from cash reserves, and persuaded the Forest Service and Lands and Survey to contribute the balance to a total of \$111,000, including appeal costs. That was the first of three purchases to create the Professor W.R.McGregor Memorial Reserve at Waipoua Forest. I will not go into detail of every purchase and every campaign, but Owen led them for the next 11 years.



The Lewis Years

1983	Ernest Morgan Reserve	Riverhead (QEII owned)	20 hectares
1985 & 1987*	Professor W.R.McGregor	Waipoua Forest	146 & 101 ha
1987	Shirley Guildford Puketi-Mokau	Puketi Forest	319 ha
1988	Steuart Russell	Awakino	645 ha
1989	Rangitoto Station	King Country	427 ha
1991	William Upton Hewett	Northland	242 ha
1993*	Pigeon Bush	Rimutaka	824 ha
1995*	Puhoi Far North	Northland	241 ha
1996†	Owen Lewis	King Country	237 ha
Total area of 9 reserves			3202 ha

*Additional purchases later increased the size of these 3 reserves.

† The Trust hopes to purchase adjoining land to commemorate Joy Lewis' contribution to the Trust.

Owen was active in many other ways. He cajoled supporters to lobby the then Minister of Conservation, a young Helen Clark. He led deputations. He welcomed distinguished members of the International Dendrology Society and thanked the assembly for the bronze plaque presented to the Trust honouring our efforts to save forests. Owen's eloquent speech on that occasion left no doubt as to his passion for saving and restoring forests. And so the busy life of the Trust rotated around negotiating to buy land, fund-raising to pay for it, planning and organising functions with speakers and guests to open reserve after reserve. All the while Owen was ably supported by his wife Joy. I doubt that Owen was ever bored. However he was certainly relieved when in 1993 our long-awaited book "The Living Forests of New Zealand" was published.

Over the years many, many people assisted the Trust with tasks and organising projects. Some have been resolutely involved for as long as Owen and he was always appreciative of their support. The words of deputy chairman Ian Barrow written when Owen stepped down from the chair in 1996 are more expressive than mine:

The Native Forests Restoration Trust has been, and indeed is, a fine group of New Zealanders, all of whom have individual skills, but all of whom have a common goal of restoring native forests. Over the past 14 years one man in particular has played a tremendous part in guiding and melding this team. Owen Lewis now retires as Chairperson, but fortunately not as a trustee. Over the past seven years in particular, I have observed quite closely Owen's integrity and skills in all facets of leading our Trust, whether it be legal, financial, personnel or marketing – and always with good-humoured but firm demeanour. I believe that the Native Forests Restoration Trust is now held in respect by the public, by Government agencies, and by other conservation groups. A large measure of that respect can be attributed to Owen's leadership. I am also confident that all Trustees and other workers for the Trust feel as I do, that they have a true friend in Owen to whom they have been able to turn to for advice and guidance.

Introducing the Trust's New Manager



Testifying to the Trust's high reputation, the position of Manager attracted a strong field of applicants from whom the clear choice was Sandy Crichton. He began work in January and has quickly become part of the team, handling our affairs with the skill and diplomacy this key position requires. Sandy, who belongs to the NZ Ecological Society and to the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management, comes with a proven record as a project manager, conservationist and protected species consultant. He has particular interests in the NZ falcon and this country's native bats, with expertise in survey methods for these species. 'Forest & Bird' magazine carried his illustrated article "On a wing and a prayer" in its May 2009 copy and a recent issue draws attention to recent studies of bats. Sandy's communication skills, and background operating in or with the voluntary sector have special relevance to his appointment with the Trust.

Sandy's professional qualifications and training are well suited to his work with us. His early experience in Britain included voluntary work on an archaeological and museum project where he designed and prepared educational resource material. He went on to complete a BSc Honours degree at the University of Sussex, which has a strong reputation in the sciences, before securing a Research Assistantship with the University of Cambridge on the field behaviour of meerkats. After several years of business experience in the UK, Sandy came to New Zealand in 2003 attracted by opportunities at Otago University where he gained a Post-graduate Diploma, awarded with Distinction, in the field of Natural History Filmmaking and Communication. The endangered NZ falcon became a particular focus while working alongside the Ornithological Society in efforts to promote awareness of the bird's need for protection, especially among landowners and forestry workers. At the same time, while acting as a voluntary consultant in Otago, Sandy set up a video company, Catskill Films, to make the documentary "Karearea, the pine falcon." This won awards at many film festivals worldwide, including top awards at Reel Earth Film Festival 2009. Three years in Britain first as a filmmaker, then as an ecologist concerned with ecological surveys, habitat management and protected species conservation, preceded Sandy's return to New Zealand. We are confident that Trust supporters will welcome our new manager's part in the effective working of the Native Forests Restoration Trust.

Entomological Surveying of the Marie Neverman Reserve

A planned survey of the insect fauna of the Trust's Marie Neverman Reserve at Tupare on the South Kaipara Peninsula north west of Auckland was mentioned in an earlier Canopy. The study has been carried out by Rosemary Gilbert who was awarded an Environmental Initiatives Grant from Auckland Council in support of the project. She has provided this interesting report of her efforts.

Collecting. The first stage involved approximately 18 months of field work in which insects were collected from as many as 316 pitfall traps and 27 malaise traps (after taking into account the odd trap that had been lost, damaged, trampled or submerged). The pitfall traps catch ground dwellers while the tent-like malaise traps gather creatures on the wing. In combination, these methods should gather a representative assortment of the insect fauna of the area. Leaf-litter and various materials gathered from bird-nest boxes were a supplementary source of insects. These latter samples were placed in Berlese funnels (at Tamaki Campus, Landcare Research) to extract invertebrates such as fleas and dermestid beetles which extended the collection.

Processing. Then came the tedious but fascinating part. Following countless hours of sieving, sorting, counting, mounting, labelling and finally identification (by an assortment of specialists) the report is nearing 'completion' with a total so far of about 350 species. The results are still a little patchy with groups such as mites, springtails, aphids, centipedes, millipedes, and spiders awaiting further sorting and formal identifications. The larger groups, however, have been sorted and identified. Particularly notable are Coleoptera (beetles) which have produced 204 species in 43 families of which just under 50% are endemic. Also well documented are the Hemiptera (bugs), Diptera (flies), Orthoptera (wetas, crickets etc.) and Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, ants) with yet more identifications to come. A host of specimens has been mounted

A new species was discovered which is one of the parasitic Microhymenoptera. Its identification has been published in 'New Zealand Entomologist' D.F. Ward (2013): Revision of Bethyilidae (Hymenoptera) from New Zealand. This has been named *Sierola gilbertae*. [The specific name duly acknowledges Ms Gilbert's find]

In addition to trapping, another approach involved **moth collecting sessions** at night. This technique uses a powerful ultraviolet lamp at the centre of a white sheet which gathers insects drawn to the light. Calm and preferably humid conditions are best. The moths are identified on the spot (usually without being captured). This was very successful, two sessions producing 76 species from 15 families. Drawbacks are the need to carry a heavy electricity generator to the chosen site, and the bombardment by unwanted insects, especially crickets (fortunately Tupare has few mosquitoes).

Water-borne insects deserve a survey in their own right. However, some random aquatic sampling revealed the usual fauna. More thorough investigation will reveal many more species, particularly the Odonata and Ephemeroptera (dragonflies and damselflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), (Diptera, (flies), Trichoptera (caddis flies) and Oligochaeta (worms), as well as freshwater crustacea and mollusca. Most importantly, such work can tell us what the lake birds are eating and indicate the overall health of the waterways.

Specimens from this survey are lodged in the Auckland Museum Entomology Collection. Some specimens will be accessioned into the museum's Vernon database system to be available as reference material.



Wetland management

In February Trustees Geoff Davidson and Michael Taylor, with Reserves Manager Sharen Graham, took part in a two-day symposium of the National Wetland Trust. Held at Unitec, Auckland, the meeting with its many informative talks and workshops on aspects of wetland study and conservation was a great opportunity for contacts and networking. Field trips included our Marie Neverman Reserve on the Kaipara where leaders Geoff and Sharen impressed the visitors with the scope of this project and explained the conservation measures in progress. Auckland Council has agreed to grant rates relief on this reserve in recognition of our QEII covenant and the extra environmental protection of the property to which the Trust is committed.

Participation in another workshop, held last year at Shakespeare Regional Park, should pave the way for NZNFRT membership of the Sanctuaries of New Zealand network.

TRIBUTE TO OWEN LEWIS

Yes, I should like to support the work of the Trust with a contribution in memory of Owen Lewis.

Here is my tax-deductible donation of \$

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Please make cheques payable to **NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust**
Send to NZ NFRT, PO Box 80007, Green Bay, Waitakere 0643

IF YOU WISH TO KEEP YOUR COPY OF CANOPY INTACT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE ABOVE DETAILS & INDICATE ITS INTENDED PURPOSE WITH YOUR DONATION

Come and stay at

Mangarakau Wetland Field Centre, NW Nelson



Attractive 10 bed lodge situated amid wonderful scenery with walking tracks around the swamp. Close to outstanding natural wilderness areas with access to Kahurangi National Park, Farewell Spit and Te Tai Tapu Marine Reserve. Bring own bedding and food.

*For more information and Lodge Bookings:
Ph/fax Jo-Anne Vaughan (03) 525 6031
javn@xtra.co.nz*

Come and stay at

Rangitoto Station Reserve



Modern 3-bedroomed house, 34km from Otorohanga, King Country. Well-equipped and ideal for small to medium groups but sleeping space depends on how many workers are there at the time. Camping permitted near the woolshed. Hours of walking tracks through bush or open country with superb views. Many native bird species including kokako, kaka and falcon.

Relax and enjoy the peace and quietness.
*House Bookings: Ph. Judy (09) 817-7604 (pte)
jrhanbury@actrix.co.nz*



NZ Native Forests Restoration Trust
PO Box 80007
Green Bay
Waitakere 0643

New Zealand
Permit No. 98632

Permit